

Terrorist Carlos Escapes Arrest

U.S. Protests Yugoslavia's Failure to Apprehend Him

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Yugoslav officials reportedly let Carlos, the notorious international terrorist, believed to have masterminded the 1975 Vienna kidnapping of several oil ministers, slip through their fingers last week and the United States is angry about the fumble.

State Department officials said Wednesday they gave the Yugoslav government full details about Carlos' whereabouts last week and asked that he be apprehended. When the Yugoslavs failed to do so, the United States lodged a formal protest.

State Department spokesman Frederick Z. Brown disclosed the letter of protest to Belgrade and said the department had supplied enough details of Carlos' whereabouts that Yugoslav officials could have apprehended him had they wished.

Meanwhile, a Cairo newspaper, Al Akhbar, reported Wednesday that Carlos—a 27-year-old Venezuelan whose real name is Illich Ramirez Sanchez—is loose in Europe with a small nuclear bomb that he apparently intends to use in a terrorist operation.

Carlos is sought for the murder of two French counterintelligence agents when they appeared unarmed at his apartment in Paris to take him



Carlos

AP photo

into custody. A Lebanese informant also was killed.

Carlos organized the kidnapping of Arab oil ministers meeting in Vienna in 1975. A State Department official said Carlos seems to have organized the hijacking in July of a French jet that ended in the desert.

rescue of hostages by Israeli commandos from the airport at Entebbe, Uganda.

At the same time, the United States gave Yugoslavia information on Carlos. State Department officials said. West Germany also supplied Belgrade with details of his whereabouts.

The report in Al Akhbar said Carlos is hiding in an Arab embassy in Western Europe with a small nuclear weapon. The dispatch came from its correspondent in London, Zaghlul al-Shayid.

Carlos first came to international public attention with the murder of the French agents and the informant. When they knocked on his apartment door, they were greeted by a man about 5-feet-10, apparently between 25 and 30, wearing sunglasses.

Carlos, according to reports, apparently turned to pick up a tote bag but swung around with a pistol, firing rapidly. Two agents and the informer who led them to the apartment were killed and a third agent seriously wounded.

Since then, Carlos has been linked with a variety of terrorist operations mainly in the Middle East, including the Japanese Red Army massacre at Frankfurt Airport.

TERRORISTS: Exit Carlos

The international terrorist known as "Carlos" is wanted by a dozen Western nations, but so far one of the biggest manhunts in history has come up empty-handed. During the past year, Carlos has kidnapped a group of oil ministers in Vienna and he may have masterminded the hijacking that ended at Entebbe. Recently, Carlos was nearly caught in Belgrade, but he slipped through the net—apparently with help from Communist friends.

In Algiers early this month, West German intelligence agents identified Carlos (a 27-year-old Venezuelan whose real name is Illich Ramirez Sanchez) as he boarded a plane for Yugoslavia. Both Bonn and Washington alerted the Yugoslavs. Security police in Belgrade quickly put Carlos under surveillance, along with his fellow travelers, German terrorist Hans-Joachim Klein and three men who appeared to be bodyguards.

But the terrorists had gone to Yugoslavia in order to sneak into Western Europe. According to the same sources, Yugoslav

officials initially confirmed the identification of Carlos. Both France and Austria informed Belgrade that they wanted the suspect arrested. But four days later, the Yugoslavs put Carlos and the others on a jet for Baghdad, where they disappeared.

"Yugoslav authorities allowed him to slip through their grasp," complained one U.S. official. Western diplomats speculated that Belgrade chose to deny Carlos in order to curry favor with those Third World nations that support the latter terrorist's activities. The Yugoslavs insisted that the whole episode was a case of mistaken identity: the suspect, they claimed, was merely an Algerian television technician. No one in the West was persuaded by that story, and shortly after Carlos made his exit, Yugoslavia hinted at another motive for its action. Belgrade released a strong statement condemning the U.S. for harboring the Croats who hijacked a TWA jet two weeks ago to publicize their anti-Yugoslav views.

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
Routing Slip

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5	DDS&T				
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12	IG				
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D/ Executive Secretary
10/3/76
Date

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EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE

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